

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2,4,6,7,8,9 and 10, without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1,3 and 5 as follows:

1 1. (Currently Amended) An opener to facilitate the removal
2 of a threaded lid from the top of a jar, said jar having an open
3 mouth surrounded by a thread, said opener comprising a body
4 ~~[have]~~ having an arcuate C-shape with an inner peripheral
5 sidewall, an outer peripheral sidewall, an upper edge and a lower
6 edge, said body terminating at two ends separated by ~~[[a]]~~ an
7 open gap, an inwardly extending peripheral stop extending around
8 said internal peripheral sidewall, adjacent to said upper edge,
9 the region inside said internal peripheral sidewall and said stop
10 being open, said body being made of a stiffly flexible self-shape
11 retaining substance whereby said body can be spread conveniently
12 to receive a lid, and restored to contact said lid and ~~[gripped~~
13 ~~to press]~~ bearing against the lid while being twisted to remove
14 the lid from the jar.

1 2. (Cancelled) An opener according to claim 1 in which said
2 outer peripheral sidewall is formed with serrations to improve
3 its grip characteristics for the hand of a user.

1 3. (Currently Amended) An opener according to claim 1 in
2 which said inner sidewall includes a pair of portions of
3 different diameter whereby to form a shoulder facing toward

4 [[the]] said lower edge so proportioned and arranged as to stop a
5 rim on a lid to limit the downward travel of the lower edge,
6 whereby said lower edge is prevented from contacting said jar.

1 4. (Cancelled) An opener according to claim 1 in which a
2 stop extends around the inside of the said upper edge to prevent
3 a lid from passing entirely through said body.

1 5. (Currently Amended) An opener according to claim 1 in
2 which an abutment interconnects said ends of said body, bridging
3 said gap, said abutment includes a pair of arms and a bight, said
4 arms being connected to a respective end and to the bite
5 projecting entirely beyond said outer sidewall whereby to be
6 contactible by the thumb or a finger of a user, said abutment
7 being unitary with said body, flexible and self-shape retaining.

1 6. (Cancelled) An opener according to claim 5 in which said
2 abutment includes a pair of arms and a bight, said arms being
3 connected to a respective end and to the bight.

1 7. (Cancelled) An opener according to claim 5 in which said
2 inner sidewall includes a pair of portions of different diameter
3 whereby to form a shoulder facing toward the lower edge so
4 proportioned and arranged as to stop a rim on a lid to limit the
5 downward travel of the lower edge, whereby said lower edge is

6 prevented from contacting said jar.

1 8. (Cancelled) An opener according to claim 7 in which said
2 outer peripheral sidewall is formed with serrations to improve
3 its grip characteristics for the hand of a user.

1 9. (Cancelled) An opener according to claim 7 in which said
2 abutment includes a pair of arms and a bight, said arms being
3 connected to a respective end and to the bight.

1 10. (Cancelled) An opener to facilitate the removal of a
2 threaded lid from the top of a jar, said jar having an open mouth
3 surrounded by a thread, said opener comprising a circular body
4 with an inner peripheral sidewall, an outer peripheral sidewall,
5 an upper edge and a lower edge, said body being made of a stiffly
6 flexible self-shape retaining substance whereby said body can be
7 spread conveniently to receive a lid, and gripped to press
8 against the lid while being twisted to remove the lid from the
9 jar, said inner sidewall including a pair of portions of
10 different diameter whereby to form a shoulder facing toward the
11 lower edge so proportioned and arranged as to stop a rim on a lid
12 to limit the downward travel of the lower edge, whereby said
13 lower edge is prevented from contacting said jar.